



Promoting Clean Energy and Protecting the Environment

The “Energy Act of 2020” and the “Innovation for the Environment” divisions invest in scientific research and cutting-edge technologies to ensure America continues to lead the world in clean and affordable energy. The legislation promotes a diverse mix of energy sources, including nuclear, natural gas, hydropower, wind, solar, energy efficiency and energy storage.

Expanding Nuclear Energy: The legislation strengthens America’s nuclear energy leadership by developing and supporting the commercialization of zero-emissions, advanced nuclear technologies. This includes measures to ensure advanced nuclear fuels are available when the first advanced nuclear technologies come to market, to prioritize innovative commercial applications of nuclear energy, and to develop the domestic nuclear supply chains necessary to maintain energy and national security.

Reducing Air Emissions: The bill prioritizes clean air and environmental protection through the reduction of air pollutants and greenhouse gases. For example, it reauthorizes a cost-effective program to retrofit heavy diesel engines for cleaner vehicles in communities and ports. It also directs the gradual phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons, while ensuring that these chemicals remain available for critical uses and affordable for residential and small business consumers.

Prioritizing Rural Communities: Several provisions improve the ability of rural communities to upgrade electricity and energy systems with technologies necessary for more secure, lower-emissions delivery of energy and power to their residents, businesses, and workers.

Innovating with CCUS: There are provisions to strengthen agency work to develop and demonstrate the commercial application of carbon capture, carbon removal, and carbon utilization technologies in the energy and industrial sectors. These include measures to ensure more efficient permitting of carbon dioxide pipeline infrastructure and direct air capture.

Energy Access for Tribal Areas: The legislation will improve energy security and affordability on Indian lands by reauthorizing important government programs, removing barriers to providing access to electrical service, and advising on energy education, planning and management.

Mineral Security: The legislation will help strengthen our critical minerals supply chain and reduce our reliance on China for imports by cutting down on unnecessary permitting delays and investing in programs to increase recycling and the development of alternatives.

Elevating Energy Efficiency: Provisions encourage the development and use of energy and water efficient technologies in homes, businesses and government buildings. Additional measures expand access to energy efficiency technologies and assistance to states and local communities.

Focusing on Research and Development: Research and development authorizations span the energy sector—fossil, renewable, nuclear-- ensuring the United States can maximize its abundant energy resources for the benefit of its security, its business and industry, and its workers and families.